

Lanesboro Public Utilities
Regular Meeting, City Council Chambers
Tuesday, October 17th, 2017 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Tom Dybing, Theresa Coleman and Char Brown

Absent: None

Staff Present: Jerod Wagner

Visitors: Tom Smith, Michael Brown, Sheryl Johnson, John Dahle, Lester Dunn, Gordy Skudamore, Gary Hardtke, Phil and Heidi Dybing, David and Sandy Webb, Martha Norstad, Pat Schmidt, and Christian and Beth Spelhaug

Call to Order: Chairman Dybing called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

- **Agenda:** Member Coleman motioned to approve the agenda with the amendment of: Remove Accounts Payable from the Consent Agenda, and place under Regular Business item A. Member Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- **Consent Agenda:** Member Coleman motioned to approve the Consent Agenda:
 - Minutes of the Regular Meeting, September 19, 2017Member Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- **Utilities Staff Update:** Jerod Wagner noted the following:
 - Coordination to have the meters at the Water Treatment Facility has been completed. The meters can-not be shipped; therefor staff will need to meet the driver half way to exchange the meter, most likely in Rochester. An adaptor has been ordered to put in place when the meter is out being calibrated.
 - The line replacement portion of the electric upgrade is almost done. It appears due to scheduling that the transfer will not happen until next spring once the power plant has been upgraded.
 - Wagner was not able to attend the UMMEG meeting and therefore will need to do further investigation prior to presenting the possible contract and resolution to the commission.
 - While working on the Zenith Road project a damaged storm sewer line was found behind the Water Treatment Facility. Repairs will be done tomorrow.
- **Council Liaison Update:** Tom Smith noted that the Council had approved the Verizon Wireless contract. He also noted that the Council approved a volunteer to coordinate fund raising; a separate account has been set up at Merchants Bank to accept donations. All proceeds will benefit the Sylvan Park Electrical Upgrade.

Regular Business

- A. Chamber of Commerce – Matching Funds Request:** Sheryl Johnson was present to request funds for a Dairyland matching grant. The grant is \$2400 which goes towards the cost of producing the Visitors Guide. Member Brown motioned to approve \$400 towards the matching funds. Member Coleman seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.

- B. Accounts Payable:** Member Brown motioned to approve the Accounts Payable as submitted. Member Coleman seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- C. Dybing Connection Question:** Phil and Heidi Dybing questioned if they could be connected to City water and Sewer even though the potential site is not within the City limits. Administrator Peterson noted that there is a water ordinance that allows for such a connection. However there was not an ordinance that allowed or not allowed for sewer. For this reason the Commission members felt it would be allowable.
- D. Feasibility Study – Sewer extension Zenith:** Several residents were present for this discussion. Member Dybing began by giving an overview of the study. David and Sandy Webb noted that their current septic system is in working order, and felt they had plenty of room for a replacement if needed. Their system is currently 6 years old. A concern with pumping up hill was also noted. To which Wagner stated there would be a check valve with an alarm system so that no backflow would enter into the residence. Member Brown stated that the state of MN requires that an inspection be done every three years, and that the same location could not be used. The Webb's did not wish to have sewer services from the City, as well did not feel it was needed. John Dahle noted that due to the cost of the system, he was not interested in sewer services. Michael Brown noted the requirement of a one acre parcel for the installation of a septic system. Christian and Beth Spelhaug inquired as to the amount such an installation would increase property values, as well as property taxes. No information was available for this question. Gary Hardtke noted that he felt the cost estimate for such a project was high. As well noting the current estimated assessments would cause those undeveloped parcels to become too high to market. The Commission questioned the amount of a project that was done last year to connect a current residence to City sewer. The Commission noted the need for further research. Phil Dybing also noted concern that some agreement should be made for those undeveloped lots. That if a septic is installed, that the homeowner would have more than one year to connect as the ordinance currently states.
- E. Electrical Work at Dam and at Kirkwood:** Administrator Peterson and Jerod Wagner provided the overview to the necessity of both projects. Peterson noted the work for the electrical lines to be moved from above the dam, would be considered part of the dam project, and therefore would be covered by the grant received from the state. Wagner noted the concerns with the electrical line running along Kirkwood, stating it was difficult to access the line if repairs were needed. Member Brown motioned to approve Star Energy complete both studies per the quote received. Member Dybing seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- F. Right of Way Ordinance:** Member Brown motioned to recommend the ordinance along with two provisions, co-location agreement and permit fee consideration, to the City Council. Member Dybing seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- G. Circle Drive Water Connections:** Jerod Wagner and Jim Peterson noted the need to document the homes that elected to not properly connect to City water. Member Brown motioned send a certified letter and officially record with Fillmore County those parcels that are not connected to their designated curb stop shut-off location. Member Dybing seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- H. Continued Business**
- a. 2018 Budget:** Member Dybing motioned to recommend the 2018 LPU budget to the City Council. Member Coleman seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.

- b. **Waste Water Feasibility Study:** Member Brown motioned to table this discussion until February of 2018, once Budget discussions for 2018 have been completed. Member Dybing seconded the motion. Members Dybing and Brown voted in favor, while member Coleman voted no. Motion carried.
- c. **Little Norway:** Member Brown noted the importance of a holistic review if this concern. Brown noted the report from Bolten & Menk for the Waste Water Feasibility Study, and how the two issues are tied together. Wagner noted that he could look into any short term solutions to bring the connection above water, noting that there is not a check valve in this location. Wagner also recalled an option to heat the line over the river, and have this system tied to the SCADA system for alerts if it were to fail. As well as the option to directional bore under the river from Parkway. This discussion will be included with the Waste Water Feasibility Study discussion next February.

I. Miscellaneous:

- a. **MNDOT:** Administrator Peterson noted that staff as well as a representative from Bolton & Menk had met with MNDOT officials regarding a possible project for Hwy 250 or Parkway Avenue. Currently the project is slated for 2022 with a mill and overlay; however the City would prefer it be a 2023 project. The need for the replacement of infrastructure under Hwy 250, as well as several safety concerns at intersections along Hwy 250 was noted during the meeting. The possibility of a change in scope for the project was noted, MNDOT will report back if this is a possibility.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 21st, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Adjourn Regular Meeting: Motion was made by Member Dybing to adjourn the regular meeting of the Public Utilities Commission at 6:48 p.m. Motion was seconded by member Brown. Motion carried all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson
City Administrator/Clerk